

## Free Motorcycle Instruction

Motorcycle classes for riders of all skill and experience levels, are offered free of charge to Illinois residents 16 years of age or older who hold a valid automobile or motorcycle driver's license or permit. Persons under 18 years of age must have written consent of parent or legal guardian.

## Sponsored by:

This program is administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation, Springfield, Illinois and is supported by Public Act 82-649, the Cycle Rider Safety Training Act.

For course information contact your local Regional Center below or access the IDOT website at:

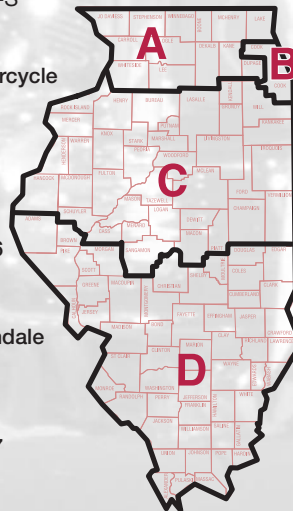
[www.STARTSEEINGMOTORCYCLES.org](http://www.STARTSEEINGMOTORCYCLES.org)

**A** Northern Illinois University  
Motorcycle Safety Project  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2854  
800-892-9607  
[www.niu.edu/mcycycle](http://www.niu.edu/mcycycle)

**B** Harper College Motorcycle Safety Program  
650 E. Higgins Road, Suite 17-S  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4741  
847-925-6803  
[www.harpercollege.edu/motorcycle](http://www.harpercollege.edu/motorcycle)

**C** University of Illinois  
Motorcycle Rider Program  
#4 Gerty Drive  
Champaign, Illinois 61820  
800-252-3348 • 217-333-7856  
[mrp.illinois.edu](http://mrp.illinois.edu)

**D** Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale  
Motorcycle Rider Program  
1435 Douglas Drive  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901  
800-642-9589 • 618-453-2877  
Fax: 618-453-2879  
[mrp.siu.edu](http://mrp.siu.edu)



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Transportation



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of Transportation

# SHARE THE ROAD



[www.STARTSEEINGMOTORCYCLES.org](http://www.STARTSEEINGMOTORCYCLES.org)

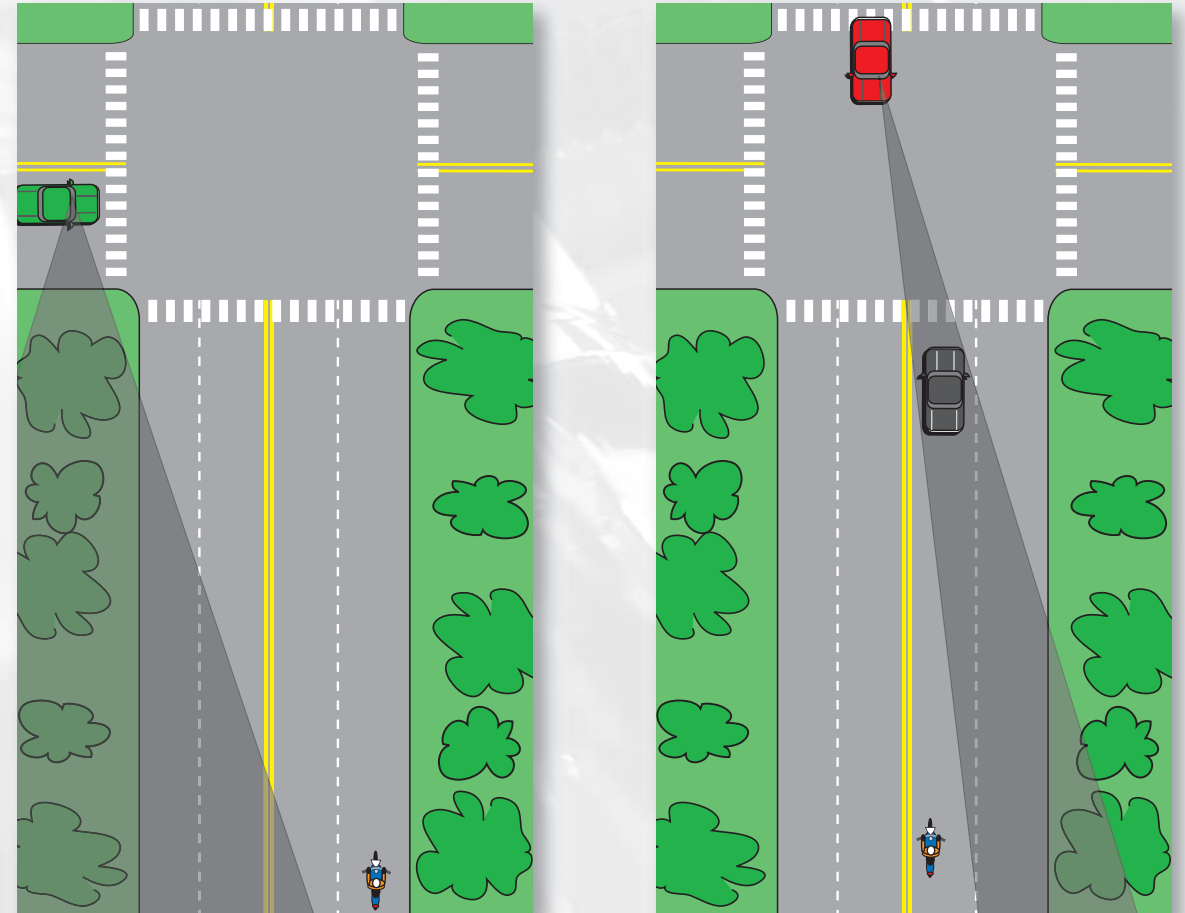
## VISIBILITY

In many car-motorcycle crashes, drivers claimed they "did not see" the motorcycle, or did not see it until it was too late.

**Riders** need to make themselves as conspicuous as possible. Wear High Viz outer wear, use reflective stickers and clothing.

Consider combining hand signs with turn signals. And always use your turn signal even when you think no one can see you.

Flash your brake light two or three times before slowing down or stopping.



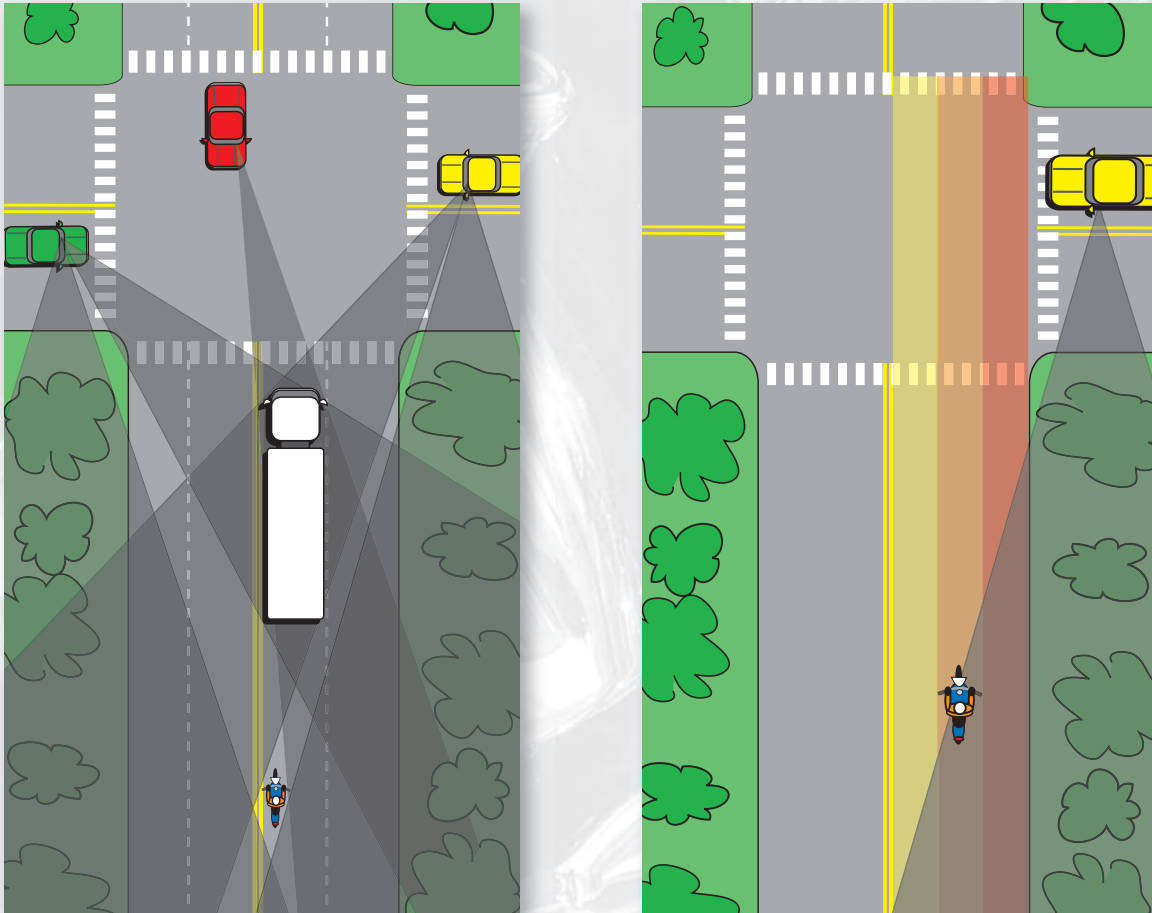
**Drivers** should expect to see motorcycles at anytime, and search aggressively for them. Remember that a motorcycle's headlight is on all the time- this helps you see them during the day. A motorcycle can easily be hidden behind a car or truck, so it is particularly important to check your mirrors and blind spot before merging or changing lanes, especially in heavy traffic. Also, look for a helmet above, tires below and shadow alongside a vehicle that you can not see around.



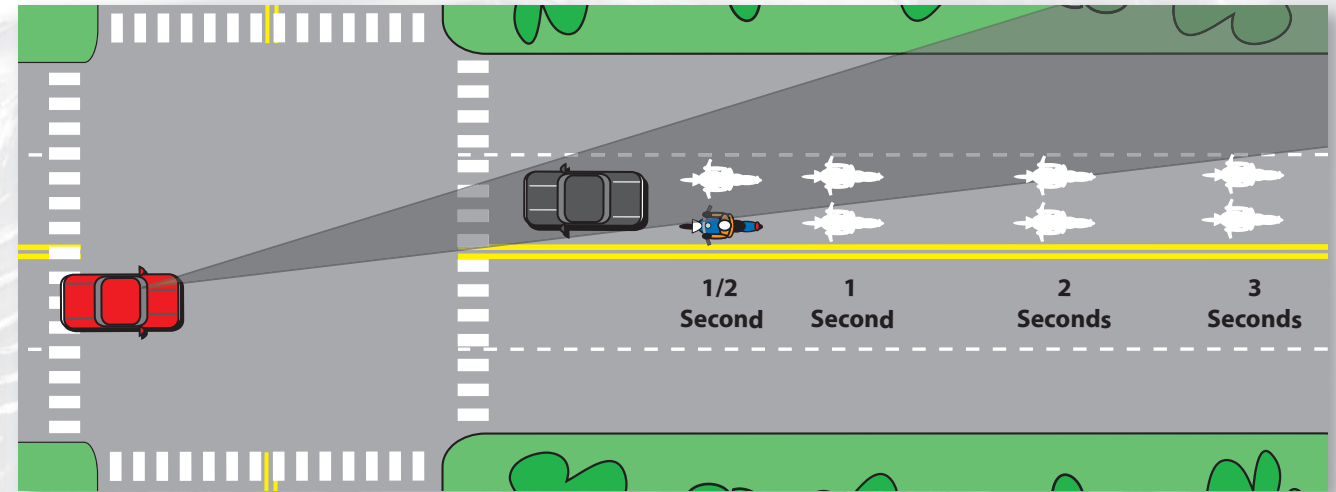
# INTERSECTIONS

The majority of car-motorcycle crashes happen at intersections. Typically, a car turns left in front of a moving motorcycle, violating its right of way and cutting off its path of travel. The motorcycle then either crashes into the car, or crashes trying to avoid the car.

**Riders** must never assume that they have been seen, and should approach each intersection with great care. Choose a lane position that makes you most visible to any cars waiting to turn. Be aware of any drivers behind you who may not have time to stop if you have to brake suddenly. When approaching intersections, slow down, and cover your brakes and clutch. Avoid flashing your high beam, and make sure your turn signals aren't blinking – this can send other drivers the wrong message. Consider a short beep of your horn and try to make eye contact.



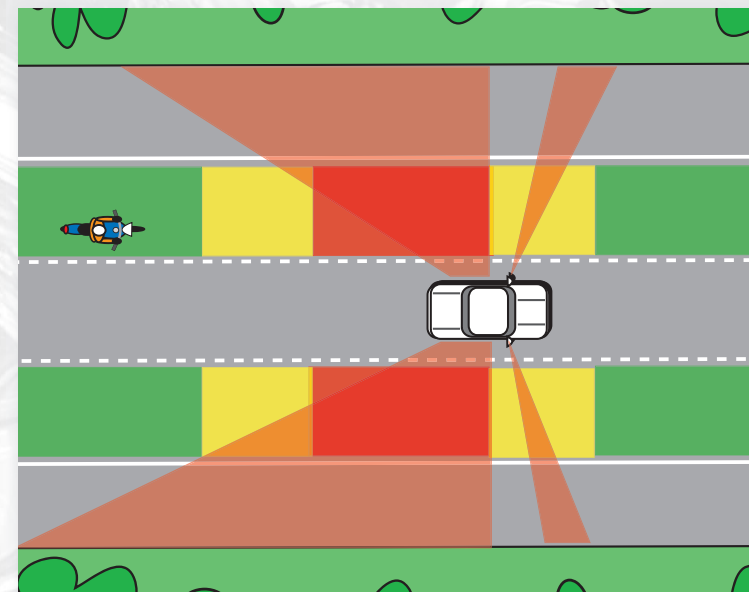
**Drivers** must be particularly alert at intersections, and take a second look specifically for motorcycles before pulling out. Because motorcycles are smaller, it's hard to judge how far away a motorcycle is and how fast it is going. Take an extra moment to determine the rider's intentions and try to make eye contact. Do not be fooled by a flashing turn signal – motorcycles signals do not turn off automatically and riders often forget about them. They can ride for a long time without realizing their signal is on. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.



## FOLLOWING DISTANCE

**Drivers and Riders** should allow a minimum two second “space cushion” when following another vehicle. This gives the drivers and motorcyclist the same time and space to react to surprises. To determine two seconds’ distance, pick out a fixed object ahead of you. When the vehicle you’re following passes the object, count off, “one thousand one, one thousand two.” If you have not passed the same object in two seconds, your following distance meets the two-second minimum. In poor driving conditions, at higher speeds, and at night, use a four or five-second following distance. During rush hour, when two-second following distance is rarely possible; drivers and riders need to stay alert. Motorcyclists should always have an escape route in mind, cover their brakes and horn, and be ready to use them.

## PASSING



**Drivers** when passing a motorcycle, drivers must change lanes completely to avoid crowding the rider. Drivers also need to avoid moving back into their own lane too soon, to allow the motorcycle as much space as a car or truck. When being passed by a motorcycle, maintain lane position and speed, allowing the motorcyclist to pass safely.

**Riders**, when passing other vehicles, signal well in advance, check blind spots and your mirrors, and complete the pass quickly, being careful not to remain in the other driver's blind spot for more than a few moments. Use your turn signal and return to your lane well ahead of the other vehicle. When being passed by a car, ride in the left third of your lane to discourage the other driver from trying to pass without changing lanes. Maintain your speed or even slow down to let the other vehicle pass safely.